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NEWS

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## Two New Regents Named

The Senate has confirmed the Presidential nominations of William O. Baker, Ph.D., and Jack M. Layton, M.D., to four-year terms on the NLM Board of Regents. They will replace Dr. Stewart G. Wolf and Dr. William B. Bean, whose terms expired in August 1969 (see *News*, July 1969). Both appointees bring to the Board valuable experience in their respective fields, communications and medical education.

Dr. Baker, Vice President in Charge of Research, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey, is a nationally recognized leader in the field of communications. Recipient of the B.S. degree in 1935 from Washington College, Dr. Baker earned his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1938. Since that time, he has received numerous other degrees, including three honorary Sc.D.'s and a Doctorate of Law degree from the University of Glasgow. In 1954 he was named one of the ten top scientists in United States industry.

Dr. Layton is currently Professor and Head, Department of Pathology, The University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona. He received his A.B. degree from Luther College in 1939, and his M.D. from the State University of Iowa in 1943. A distinguished educator, Dr. Layton has lectured throughout the United States. He is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (of which he is a member of the Board of Directors), the American Heart Association, and the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

## MEDLARS Paper Wins Award

At the recent meeting of the American Society for Information Science at San Francisco, the award for best paper of the year was made to F. W. Lancaster for his paper, "MEDLARS: Report on the Evaluation of Its Operating Efficiency." The article appeared in the April 1969 issue of American Documentation and describes the methodology used and the principle results of large-scale evaluation of MEDLARS. Mr. Lancaster's study was performed and published while he served as Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Library Operations, NLM. He is presently affiliated with Westat Surveys, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland.

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Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Peter K. Monk, Acting Chief, Office of Public Information and Publications Management

Ann R. Lindsay Editor (301-496-6308)
Roger L. Gilkeson Assistant Editor (301-496-3661)
Daniel Carangi Graphics

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## Abridged Indexed Medicus

In January 1970 the National Library of Medicine will begin monthly publication of *Abridged Index Medicus* -- a condensed version of *Index Medicus* designed for individual physicians and for libraries of small hospitals and clinics.

Each issue of *Abridged Index Medicus* will contain citations to articles in 100 English-language journals. A large proportion of these journals will be found in nearly all small medical libraries. The selection of the journals was made by the Library with guidance from an advisory committee of physicians, medical editors, and medical librarians. Consideration was given to the quality of the journals, usefulness of journal content for the medical practitioner, and the need for providing coverage of all major fields of clinical medicine. (A limited number of copies of a pilot issue of *Abridged Index Medicus* are available from the Office of Public Information, NLM.)

Distribution of *Abridged Index Medicus* will be handled on a subscription basis by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The annual subscription price is $12 ($15 foreign). Payment should be included with the order in the form of check, money order, or Superintendent of Documents coupons. (Please do not send orders to the National Library of Medicine.)

## Oral Historians To Meet

The Fourth National Colloquium on Oral History will be held at Airlie House, Warrenton, Virginia, November 7-10, 1969. Peter D. Olch, M.D., Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, and director of NLM's Oral History Program, is a member of the Executive Council of the Association and Program Chairman for this forthcoming meeting. The major theme of the colloquium is the evaluation of the oral history process, and attendees will be addressed by authors, journalists, news correspondents, historians, and other full-time practitioners of the oral history technique. Among the featured speakers are Mr. Elie Abel, NBC news Diplomatic Correspondent; Mr. Frank Mankiewicz, journalist; and Mrs. Barbara Tuchman, author of *The Guns of August*. Dr. Olch will serve as chairman of the session on individual program reports in the field of science and technology.

Approximately 135 individuals will gather for the three-day meeting, which will be co-hosted by the George C. Marshall Research Foundation and the Oral History Association.

Further information about the colloquium can be obtained from Mr. Royster Lyle, Jr., Colloquium Coordinator, George C. Marshall Research Foundation, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

# The Lister Hill Center and Satellite Communications

Elements of the medical community were early proponents of the use of satellites to handle certain kinds of biomedical communication. One of the early tangible expressions of that interest is contained in the proposal from the University of Wisconsin, in July 1967, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for an experiment in education communication utilizing the small-terminal capabilities of the NASA Applications Technology Satellite (ATS) Spacecraft.

The Federation of Rocky Mountain States, an organization established to foster and coordinate development among six Rocky Mountain states, has indicated an interest in exploring the use of communications satellites to satisfy area communications requirements.

Stanford University has been keenly interested in satellite communications for some time and is now initiating comprehensive biomedical communications experiments using the NASA ATS satellite and small, inexpensive transmitter-receiver terminals. The University is currently working with the University of Hawaii College of Health Sciences, coordinating headquarters for the Hawaii Regional Medical Program, to develop a capability to extend medical consultation services to selected Pacific islands (e.g., Guam, Samoa, Marianas) on an experimental basis, using ATS facilities.

Considerable interest in satellite communications for domestic applications is currently focused on Alaska. The Alaska Congressional Delegation has aroused much of this interest through a series of special meetings in Washington, D. C., and one conference in Anchorage, Alaska, on August 28, 1969 which was attended by Dr. Ruth D. Davis, Director of NLM's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications.

The Lister Hill Center, in anticipation of assisting in the Alaska project and in preparation for satellite communications experiments as a part of the Biomedical Communications Network, has arranged with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center for the extended use of an ATS VHF transportable receive-transmit terminal and antenna. The terminal and antenna should be ready for operation during October 1969.

The Lister Hill Center has now completed the preliminary coordination required for experimentation with ATS. The Director of Communications Programs in NASA's Office of Space Science and Applications has given the Center authorization to use the ATS spacecraft for specific voice and data experiments in the VHF range over the next nine months. The Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) has approved the Center's request for permission to radiate or transmit signals in the VHF range to the ATS spacecraft.

The line of sight from the Metropolitan Washington Area to the ATS spacecraft over the Pacific Ocean is at an elevation of only $3^{\circ}$ from the horizontal; this may offer difficulties for high-quality reception and transmission of signals. Because of this small elevation angle, the Lister Hill Center plans to conduct tests with its transportable terminal at several locations to determine the place where operations are most effective. The Center has asked Dr. Karl Frank, Chief of the Laboratory of Neural Control, NINDS, to assist in arranging for space in the amateur radio area of the Clinical Center to conduct the first test of the transportable terminal.

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(The Lister Hill Center, from Page 3)

The plan is to conduct the first tests in the near future and to have selected an optimum location shortly thereafter. At that time, the Lister Hill Center will submit a formal request to the appropriate NIH authorities for permission to use space in the selected location for ATS experiments during the next year.

## NLM Story Beamed Throughout Southeast Asia Via VOA

The story of the National Library of Medicine, featuring a tour of the Library, a vivid description of the Lobby Exhibit on medical illustration, and an interview with an NLM staff member, has been tape-recorded in Chinese by the Voice of America for beaming throughout Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Rita M. Hechler of the Chinese Branch, East Asia and Pacific Division of the Voice of America, visited the Library on September 17 to record her impressions as she listened to Dr. Peter Olch, Deputy Chief of the NLM History of Medicine Division. Dr. Olch also explained the Lobby Exhibit in detail. Mrs. Hechler also interviewed Mrs. Lois Chang, of the NLM Catalog Division for background material.

The resulting tape, about twenty minutes long, mostly in Chinese, was described by Mrs. Hechler as one of the most interesting and longest broadcasts in the VOA science series.

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